

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER 2014 | INDIA



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Still fighting jetlag from the 18 hour flight to Mumbai, I’m writing this introduction as my first assignment as the U.S. Consulate’s new Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer. It is with great pleasure that I do so because, as an alumnus of a U.S.-India exchange program, I know firsthand the magnitude such experiences can have on a person’s life and career. I participated in an exchange three years ago, and have now returned to India with the opportunity to manage these rewarding programs.

India’s alumni network is one of the most extensive in the world, spanning all sectors of society. Many alumni use their experience to impact real social change locally and abroad. This newsletter is a great way to share the extraordinary work our alumni are doing throughout the country, often with support from U.S. sources and from networks they developed while on exchange programs. I look forward to meeting as many alumni as I can during my time here and to hearing more about all the inspiring work they are doing for their community.

-- *Brittney Stewart, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, Mumbai*

“Rewind” - Embassy/Consulate News

CHENNAI

Women Entrepreneurs Commemorate Women’s Entrepreneurship Day in Chennai



Women entrepreneurs enjoying a group activity

On November 19, 40 women from the South India Women Entrepreneurs Association commemorated Women’s Entrepreneurship Day with a series of workshops, a networking session, and a look at the IIP publication *Women in the World*.

Humphrey Fellow Raju Arumugham helped with the event, which supported Mission India’s goals of promoting women’s empowerment through alumni outreach.

Gender workshop uses theater techniques to explain violence



27 participants including several alumni, students, theater enthusiasts, social and cultural activists attended a workshop “ACTing Against Gender Based Violence” led by USG alumna at the U.S. Consulate General, Chennai on November 22, 2014. The workshop included exercises (role plays), discussions and narratives intended to sensitize the participants to moving towards possible solutions by a nuanced understanding of the genesis of violence. The focus of the interactive workshops included everyday conflicts between couples, rape and sexual abuse, and representation of violence against women.

Alumni take GBV campaign to the streets

Public Affairs Chennai in association with Pandies Theater Group and a local NGO Nalamdana represented by IVLP alumnus Sampath Muthuvelan addressed GBV issues in the community using vernacular theater at Uroor Kuppam, a fishing settlement along Chennai’s coast with a semi-literate population of about 2550. PAO Ariel Pollock reiterated USG commitment to preventing and responding to violence against women and girls globally. The program was covered widely by vernacular dailies and TV channels. Continued engagement with themes of action against gender-based violence, securing participant allegiance to the cause, and evaluation of the impact is being fulfilled by a digital pledge campaign in the Embassy and Consulate websites (that will be amplified by social media). <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/pledge4s.html>



A skit in vernacular Tamil depicts a scene of domestic violence as a result of spousal alcohol abuse



IVLP alumnus Sampath Muthuvelan uses his expertise in street theatre via Tamil songs & dialogs to draw audiences to the skit

Consulate Chennai launches the 16 Days Campaign with Alumni Project on Gender-based violence “See Something, Say Something!”

Marking the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, “See Something? Say Something! ACTing against Gender Based Violence (4S)” is a theatre project taking place in four Indian cities – Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, and Jammu – that targets public attitudes towards women’s entitlement to violence-free lives. The project aims to throw the spotlight on existing issues of violence; affirm activist attempts to eliminate gender-based violence (GBV) in various parts of the world; and disseminate a “glocal” feminist approach in dealing with issues that sometimes get mired in communal or national chauvinism.

As an official launch of the 4-city tour, the U.S. Consulate General, Chennai in association with Pandies theatre, New Delhi, S.S. International Live and Marappachi organized a performance of SEVEN, a documentary play, based on personal interviews with seven courageous women from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Guatemala, Nigeria, Northern Island and Pakistan in the Vital Voices Global Leadership Network who overcame blocks, threats and resistance on their path to achieve justice and freedom. All the performers for SEVEN in Chennai are alumni of various U.S. Government sponsored exchange programs. The emotion laden play which had thought provoking dialogues, participatory theatrical techniques that broke down the hierarchy between actors and audiences, and dramatic movements was attended by more than 150 people from various walks of life, including several young college students.

Chennai Consul General Phillip Min opened the program with remarks emphasizing U.S. commitment to preventing and responding to violence against women and girls globally, and highlighting the role of U.S. government exchanges and alumni in have the ability to translate and transfer some of the learnings into action in their own communities back home. The reading was followed by a 30-minute interactive discussion with the audience.

The program was covered in the November 24th issue of South India’s largest circulating news daily “The Hindu” in its city supplement “Metro Plus”



Kennedy Center alumnus Sunil Vishnu and IVLP alumna Rajathi Samsudeen Salma (playing the roles of Nigeria’s Hafsat Abiola and Cambodia’s Mu Sochua) with a supporting actor from Pandies Theatre, New Delhi



Anwar (ACCESS English Microscholarship and NESA alumnus), Sampath (IVLP), Swapna (Fulbright), Mangai (Fulbright), Sunil Vishnu (Kennedy Center), Salma (IVLP) and Saundarya (IVLP) – playing the SEVEN along with supporting actors from Pandies theatre & other alumni on stage at Rani Seethai Hall on November 21

KOLKATA

Alumni Education Roadshow held in Guwahati, November 4, 2014

The U.S. Consulate Kolkata began the four city alumni education roadshow in Guwahati, Assam to promote higher education in the U.S. through our young exchange alumni. Seven alumni across different exchanges - Study of U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders, Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Program (NESA UGRAD), Community College Initiative Program and Benjamin Franklin Summer Institute Program – spoke to school and college students in the city about their study abroad experience and why the U.S. is the best choice for higher education. Our state department alumni provided a very important link for the students - cultural immersion and adapting the U.S. educational system. Hearing first hand from Indian students who have actually gone through the study abroad experience – their insights into how they adjusted to a completely new and different cultural environment – went a long way in providing a connect to the young students and generating greater interest in U.S. education. Animated interactions between the alumni and local students covered many topics including adjusting to the U.S. college curriculum, their field of study, and life on the U.S. college campus, financial management, cultural expectations and challenges. USIEF and Education USA were also present to provide information on the application process and college selection. Over 200 local students attended the event and media coverage took the message out to many more. The alumni were also interviewed on a local radio channel.



Akash Prasad, alum of Benjamin Franklin Summer Institute Program 2012, giving his presentation



A student addresses her question to the alumni presenters at the Guwahati Alumni Roadshow



PAO Joanne Joria addresses a student's query at the Guwahati alumni Roadshow

Alumni Education Roadshow held in Kolkata, November 17, 2014

Kolkata kicked off the International Education Week with the second leg of the Alumni education roadshow in the city. Following the Guwahati event, the Kolkata program was organized at the American Center Lincoln Room and was also well attended by youth from the city. In keeping with the theme, the event saw our young exchange alumni in conversation with school and college students speaking about their study abroad experience in the U.S. and encouraging them to consider the U.S. as a higher education destination. The students had many different kinds of questions to ask the alumni in the interactive session moderated by APAO Greg Pardo, from food concerns to scholarship opportunities. Media was also present at the event, taking the message out to many more in the city. The event was an ideal start to the International Education Week celebrations, promoting the U.S. as the destination of choice for higher education. We also held a session on MOOCs to promote this popular online platform among the tech-savvy youngsters, an ideal tool for them to acquire a specialized degree.



APAO Greg Pardo speaks with college students at the Kolkata Alumni Roadshow



Aashna Doshi, alumna of the NESU UGRAD program 2013, speaks with school students at the Kolkata Alumni Roadshow



Interactive session between the alumni and students led by APAO Greg Pardo

PAO visits alumni organization in Guwahati

The PAO and alumni coordinator visited Sishu Sarothi, an organization led by IVLP alum Arman Ali, a disability rights champion in the northeast. Under his leadership, Sishu Sarothi explores new avenues for the education, rehabilitation; training and employment of persons with disabilities, as well as for the protection of the rights of disabled people and continues to expand.



A recipient of the national award “Public Recognition for Outstanding Performance” by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, for being the most efficient disabled employee in the service sector, Arman took us on a visit of his institution and gave an overview of the projects and collaborations going forward. The meeting gave us the opportunity to see our alumni institute first hand which always helps in consolidating the relationship further for focus on joint priorities. As part of the Guwahati outreach, we also met with Hubert Humphrey alum Mr. Kuladhar Saikia, currently the Assistant DGP in Assam. He was able to provide a thorough overview of the law and order situation in the state and the programs we could do in Guwahati keeping in mind the particular environment and needs of the northeast.

IVLP alum Arman Ali in conversation with Director Joanne Joria at Sishu Sarothi

Minister Counselor for Public Affairs meets with leading Kolkata alumni

Country Public Affairs Officer, Walter Douglas met with a group of Kolkata's most influential alumni on his visit to the city. The alumni represented some of the leaders in the region from the business, media and law and order sectors. Among the alumni guests were Ms. Nandini Basu, General Manager of Corporate Communications, ITC; Mr. Devadeep Purohit, Chief Reporter, The Telegraph; Ms. Debashree Chatterjee, Inspector, Human Trafficking Department; Ms. Sharmistha Banerjee, Professor in the Dept. of Business Management, University of Calcutta and Mr. Pradeep Gooptu, Chairman, Financial Journalists Associates; Director of the Advisory Board for Minda Foundation; Secretary Bengal Initiative; Advisory Editor, Kolkata on Wheels. The conversation touched upon various current themes and concerns in Bengal, allowing for a full perspective on Bengal's economy and growth prospects as well as the current socio-cultural scenario. Our alumni today are among some of the prime change makers in their fields, and this was an opportunity for the CPAO to interact with them and get an overview of the city's trajectory and expectations. It was a fruitful engagement which allowed post to create the platform for further dialogues on joint initiatives.

Consul General meets alumni in Arunachal Pradesh



The Consul General visited Arunachal and met with alumni as part of her outreach visit. The alumni are civil society and political leaders in Arunachal. The meeting helped us to build on our relationship with our alumni. As leaders in the state, they were also able to provide us with a perspective on the socio-cultural scenario in the state of Arunachal Pradesh to keep aware of when planning programs in the state.

Consul General Helen LaFave with alumni in Arunachal Pradesh

MUMBAI

Alumni conduct Citizen Journalism Workshops in Raipur, Pune, Mumbai and Indore

The U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai facilitated eight alumni-led workshops on Citizen Journalism in Raipur, Pune, Mumbai and Indore between November 11-23, 2014. The workshops conducted in English, Hindi, and Marathi helped participants to learn how to use online tools such as mobile phones, blogs, and Twitter to share their voices and make positive changes in their communities. Over 300 youth attended the workshops, and will now report on education, gender, environment, economic opportunity, security, science and technology, and development challenges.

The workshops were conducted by our IVLP and Fulbright alumni – Ms. Manisha Sharma and Mr. Ejaz Kaiser in Raipur on November 11-12, Ms. Charu Mathur and Mr. Prasad Kulkarni in Pune on Nov 13-14, Ms. Gauri Gharpure and Mr. Sameer Karve in Mumbai on Nov 17-18, and Ms. Nirmala Bhuradia and Mr. Sudhir Gore in Indore on Nov 22-23.



PAO meets alumni in Raipur

PAO (Public Affairs Officer), Philip Roskamp was in Raipur, November 11-12, and met with IVLP alumni Mr. Himanshu Dwivedi, Managing Editor, Hari Bhoomi and Mr. Sushanta Kumar Bhuyan, National Director, Community Initiatives and Rural Education at Naandi. The alumni provided insights in their fields of specialization.

The PAO addressed around 160 students of different fields from Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University and a nearby Engineering College on Higher Study Opportunities in the U.S. The session was arranged by Fulbright alumnus Dr. Sanjay Tiwari, Head of Department, Electronics at Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University.



U.S. Speaker Dan Markey addresses audiences at alumni organizations

On November 13, U.S. Speaker, Daniel Markey, Senior fellow for India, Pakistan, and South Asia, Council on Foreign Relations, USA addressed think-tanks, research scholars, and students and faculty members of postgraduate courses in international studies at Vidya Prasarak Mandal's Centre for International Studies (CIS). Assistance for arranging the session on "Future of U.S.-Pakistan relations" was by Fulbright alumnus Dr. P.M. Kamath, Honorary Director and Convener, CIS.

On November 14, Daniel Markey interacted with officials, members and invitees of Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations for a discussion on "The U.S. in South Asia after 2014". The discussion was moderated by IVLP USNATO program alumnus Mr. Sameer Patil.

On the same day, the speaker also met with a few alumni of the IVLP, Salzburg Seminar and Seeds of Peace programs at a roundtable discussion.



DCM and CG meet alumni



On November 5, the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai organized an interactive lunch for alumni of U.S. Universities to meet with DCM Michael Pelletier, CG Thomas Vajda and other USG employees to celebrate International Education Month. There were 6 alumni invitees including the President of the American Alumni Association, an Ivy League alum, business studies alum, engineering studies alum, social sciences/liberal arts alum (non-Ivy League), alum from a large state school, and a Fulbright alum. The aim was to get a diversity of experience around the table, and discussions followed on various points relating to alumni engagement, recruiting students, and challenges faced by Indian students going to study in the U.S. and vice versa.

NEW DELHI

Under-Secretary Stengel Interacts with Alumni during Visit to New Delhi

During his two-day visit to New Delhi, Under-Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel met with alumni and visited an innovative technology-enabled education project coordinated by an IVLP alumna.

During a lunch roundtable, the Under-Secretary heard about the diversity and vibrancy of Delhi's civil society and alumni engaged with issues of youth activism and citizenship, gender, social entrepreneurship, development, and law and governance.



Under-Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Richard Stengel, with Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, US Embassy New Delhi, Walter Douglas, and alumni from Delhi's civil society

Along with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State (DAS) for South and Central Asia, Eileen O'Connor, Under-Secretary Stengel visited the unique **School in the Cloud** self-organized learning lab at the Government Girls' Secondary School in south Delhi. IVLP (2012) alumna, Ritu Dangwal, coordinates the implementation of this innovative education project in India, where groups of children are provided free access to the internet for educational purposes. The School in the Cloud project builds the research and learning skills of students and provides them with online mentoring. The school is led by Prof. Sugata Mitra and is funded by the 2013 TED Prize. To watch a video of the Under-Secretary's visit, please see [here](#).



Under-Secretary Stengel, DAS Eileen O'Connor, and Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, Walter Douglas, interacting with students and teachers at the School in the Cloud self-organized learning lab.

Be Smart, Be Safe: Women's Street Survival and Safety Workshop Held at American Center

On November 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Public Affairs New Delhi in collaboration with Street Level Awareness Program (S.L.A.P.), a women's organization led by IVLP alumna Mriganka Dadwal and Centre For Health and Social Justice (CHSJ), a civil society institution, organized a "Women's Safety and Street Survival" workshop at American Center New Delhi. Designed specially to empower women to subdue an attacker, the workshop provided participants with a survival guide, made them aware about life-saving techniques, and trained them to use pepper sprays for self-defence. Participants were also educated about their legal rights and how to register a First Information Report (FIR). The workshop was followed by a screening of short-film *It's a Men's Issue* by author and filmmaker Jackson Katz.



IVLP (2014) alumna Mriganka Dadwal leads the self-defense and street survival workshop at the American Center

"Heard on the Grapevine" – Alumni News

CHENNAI

IVLP Alumnus on a writing mission

IVLP alumnus Aloor Shanavas is one of the few dynamic voices from the Tamil Muslim community in the cultural, literary, and media sphere in South India. His media reflections are targeted towards the political uprising and revival of his community with a mission to integrate the Dalits and the Muslims in creating a synergetic political force. Hailing from Kanyakumari - the southern tip of the Indian peninsula - Shanavas has written several articles on contemporary topics such as the Gujarat riots, reservation for Muslims, and the illegal imprisonment and detention of innocent Muslims. Shanavas is currently penning an autobiography of Quaid-e-Millet, the great Muslim educationist and nationalist leader, which will soon hit the Indian markets.

Stars are a part of the environment too!



Recently IVLP alumnus Arun Krishnamurthy's Environmentalist Foundation of India (EFI) was spotted with the stars. On November 7, leading Tamil film star and a phenomenon Kamal Haasan chose to celebrate his 60th birthday partnering with EFI on a lake cleaning project in the outskirts of Chennai city. This was also the star's response to Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi's call to select celebrities to launch the "Clean India" (Swachh Bharath) campaign.



Another leading star of South India, Ms. Trisha Krishnan, an ardent animal activist and a Global Ambassador for PETA partnered with EFI cleaning their newly launched animal shelter.

Arun who is also a Rolex fellow has been actively involved in the alumni network, leading a mentoring program for underprivileged children sponsored by the Alumni Affairs Office, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi

Three alumni, One Cause – Striving to improve the conditions of Muslim women

Three alumni were key speakers at the 7th Annual convention day Conference of Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Aandolan (BMMA) held at Chennai on 4th December 2014, attended by Muslim women leaders from 15 Indian states. The convention passed resolutions to codify the Muslim family law and opposed the Uniform civil code. The conference also voiced its opinions on permanent solutions to violence against women, profiling of Muslim youth as terrorists, and equal opportunity in education and employment to Muslims. The conference was covered by local media (Click on the links below to read the news coverage)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/chen-societv/muslim-womens-group-seeks-abolition-of-triple-talaq/article6668378.ece>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/TNs-Female-Shariat-Court-a-Hit/2014/12/05/article2556134.ece>



Ms. Bader Sayeed attended the 1993 SCP on "Human Rights and the Law" and the World Forum on the Future of Democracy in 2007



Ms. Jaibu Nisha, State Convenor, Bhartiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA) – Tamil Nadu, attended the 2014 SCP in Tamil on Diversity in the U.S. for Minority Youth Leaders



Ms. Sharifa Khanam, attended the 2010 RP on Human Rights Advocacy and Awareness in the U.S. and the 2010 Vital Voices of Asia: Women's Leadership and Training Summit in New Delhi

Women Entrepreneurs Commemorate Women's Entrepreneurship Day in Chennai



Women entrepreneurs enjoying a group activity

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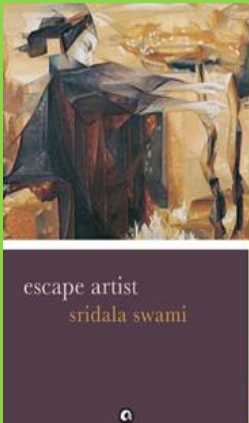
HYDERABAD

Educator and Civic Administrator, Ayesha Rubina, launches Center for Social Sciences

On November 21, 2014 Ayesha Rubina, an educator, social worker, and a civic administrator with the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, launched the Centre for Social Sciences (CSS). CSS is an educational institution that will offer physical and virtual short-term diploma courses for skill and capacity-building to working professionals, students and others. Speaking at the inauguration of CSS, Consul General Michael Mullins highlighted the importance of corporate social responsibility in encouraging a responsible regional and global role for India. [The Hindu](#) covered the inauguration of the CSS. Ayesha participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program on State and Local Governments in 2012.



Hyderabad Poet and IWP Alumna Sridala Swami Launches New Collection of Poetry



Poet, essayist, and photographer, Sridala Swami, unveiled her second volume of poetry *Escape Artist*. The book was launched on November 11 by Keki N. Daruwalla, Padma Shri and Sahitya Akademi award winner. *Escape Artist* maps the dilemmas of the bodied self, and offers a diviner's eloquent testimony to survival in a world of dissolving certitudes, precarious relationships, transcontinental mobility, and political cataclysm. Published by the Aleph Book Company, *Escape Artist* is the first book to appear under the aegis of the Jehangir Sabavala Foundation. *Escape Artist* has been shortlisted for the inaugural [Khushwant Singh Memorial Prize for Poetry \(2014\)](#). Sridala participated in the International Writing Program (IWP) at the University of Iowa in 2013.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver Fellow Coaches Indian Athletes for Special Olympics in Spain

Mr. Anil Darpalli, a Eunice Kennedy Shriver Fellow (2009) and certified coach, trained an Indian delegation which participated in the Special Olympics in Spain. The Special Olympics took place in Barcelona-Calella from October 30 to November 2, 2014. The Indian special athletes won the bronze, silver and gold medals in badminton and a bronze in table tennis. Indian special athletes have also been invited to represent India at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles, California. In 2009, Anil participated in the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Fellowship Program, a professional opportunity for individuals who champion the efforts of people with disabilities.



KOLKATA

IVLP alum participates in CONTACT program



IVLP alum Sabir Ghaffar participated in the CONTACT (Conflict Transformation Across Cultures) program held in Kathmandu from December 4-15, 2014. Sabir is associated with the Muslim Youth League, is an active youth leader and has been instrumental in taking education out to the rural and underserved communities in Bengal. A co-founder of the Darul Huda Islamic University Campus in Birbhum District in West Bengal, Sabir holds workshops, attends and speak on Seminars related to Muslim Women's Rights, countering extremism and introduction of modern education in Madrassas and Makhtabs under the Sunni Jamiat-ul-Ulama and Jamital Ulema Islam. CONTACT is a program of World

Learning's [SIT Graduate Institute](#), one of the country's leading graduate education institutions for sustainable development, conflict transformation, advocacy, and international education. The Contact South Asia program serves the needs of working professionals in the SAARC region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka) who want to further their skills and knowledge in peacebuilding and community development.

MUMBAI

IVLP alumni participate in 2nd MenEngage Global Symposium



MenEngage (ME) is a global alliance of organizations and individuals working with men and boys for gender equality. The first ME Global Symposium was held in 2009 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The second was hosted November 10-13, 2014 in New Delhi. IVLP alumnus Dr. Mangesh Kulkarni was a member of the South Asia Steering Committee of the 2nd MenEngage Global Symposium on 'Men and Boys for Gender Justice'. Further, he also moderated a session on *Masculinity: Coping with Change*.

More details about the program can be found [here](#).

NEW DELHI

CCIP Alumnus visits Ethiopia



Zulfikar Sheth, a CCIP (2011-12) alumnus and currently a Ph.D. Research Scholar at the Department of Economics, Aligarh Muslim University, has been sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, to participate in the Visiting Research Program. As part of the program, in November Zulfikar visited various educational and economic institutions of Ethiopia, including the Addis Ababa University, National Bank of Ethiopia, Ethiopian Teachers' Association, National Museum of Ethiopia, and the Technology University of Ethiopia. There he met senior staff, faculty members and students in a variety of academic departments. He also gave inputs to design impact evaluation curricula that will be taught at East African institutions. During an interaction with students and research scholars of East Africa's largest higher education institution, Addis Ababa University, he focused on how to develop capabilities of women-led organizations in East Africa and how to build the research and analytical skills of NGO leaders and academics from developing countries. Coverage of his visit was included in the Gujarati daily, *Gujarat Today*, available [here](#).

CCIP alumnus Zulfikar Sheth with Students of Addis Ababa University

IVLP Alumnus speaks on Food Security at Fuller Symposium



Biraj Patnaik, Principle Adviser to Commissioners of the Supreme Court of India and alumnus of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) 2013, participated in the prestigious Fuller Symposium in Washington, D.C. on November 12. Organized annually by the World Wildlife Fund-US, the symposium brings together leaders from the worlds of science, policy, business, conservation, and development to explore how various issues facing the world can be addressed. The theme for 2014 was “Whole Planet, Full Plate: Finding Ways to Feed the World Sustainably” and Biraj participated in a panel discussion on “Rethinking Food: Advances and Insights,” which focused on global innovations to ensure food security for all. To watch a video of the discussion and to find out more about Biraj and the Symposium, see [here](#).

IVLP Alumna Publishes Book on International Business



With two decades of teaching experience, Dr. Sumati Varma is an Associate Professor at the Department of Commerce at Delhi University. She participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) in 2011, based on her contribution to the first-ever program on American Studies for Indian Universities. The second edition of her book, *International Business*, was published recently, which follows a clearly formulated methodological structure to introduce the student to the subject. It follows a comprehensive, logical, graded approach based on the concept, environment, structure and strategy of International Business. The book also has broad geographical coverage as it explores emerging business practices in Africa, TNCs from Latin America and the emergence of new geographies such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Turkey. Pedagogical features include opening vignettes on current topics such as BITCOIN - the virtual currency and CIVETS - the emerging market country cluster and the cat which produces coffee. Sumati has eight books to her credit (three co-authored) and about 25 papers in national and international journals of repute.

CCIP Alumni Volunteering Meet

On a warm November Saturday afternoon, a group of CCIP alumni got together for a volunteering opportunity at a small elementary school run by the NGO, Samarpan Foundation, in the urban village of Kishangarh. The five alumni - Anand Prakash, Ashit Mandal, Mohammad Adil Siddiqui, Rashmi Arya, and Vinay Kumar - spent the afternoon interacting with about 90 students, playing games and hosting quizzes, and also learning more about the NGO's work in Kishangarh. The meet was organized by alumnus Vinay with support from Rashmi, and marked the first such self-organized meeting by and for the CCIP alumni.



CCIP alumni Rashmi Arya, Vinay Kumar, Ashit Mandal, Anand Prakash, and Mohammad Adil Siddiqui volunteering and interacting with students of Samarpan Foundation's school at Kishangarh village in Delhi

“Kudos!” –Alumni Awards and articles about alumni

CHENNAI

Man on a mission

Disability rights activist Rajiv Rajan on overcoming cerebral palsy to champion the cause of persons with disability

HEMA VIJAY

When he speaks, you listen carefully. Not just because you sense the enormous effort he makes in delivering words, but because his words stem from a sharp mind and clear intellect, expressing thoughts and ideas too valuable to be ignored. Yes, cerebral palsy has left him with limited motor functions. But then, disability rights activist Rajiv Rajan is not someone who lets barriers hold him, or any other person with disability, back from life. Rajiv began formal schooling at 14 years and went on to become the first student with cerebral palsy in Tamil Nadu to complete the SSLC exams. At 41, today, Rajiv now leads from the front in the mammoth struggle to achieve accessibility, inclusion and equal rights for the country's persons with disability.

Rajiv is the founder and general secretary of Ektha, an organisation that advocates for the rights of people with disabilities, and the coordinator for Chennai-based NGO Vidya Sagar's Disability Law Unit (South). Earlier, Rajiv served as a member of the sub-committee under the Central Government's National Trust for compiling and implementing disability equity training.

In recognition of his efforts, Rajiv received the Ability Cavin Care Mastery



SPEARHEADING CHANGE Rajiv Rajan at Vidya Sagar
PHOTO: R. RAGU

Award for the year 2009, the National Award in the Role Model Category from the President of India for the Year 2007, and the Good Samaritan award from the Rotary Club of Chennai Patna. Rajiv is quick to say, “My

From transport to technology, accessibility is a challenge for us, which snowballs into bigger challenges

work is about networking with people, and coming together for a cause, not about personal ambition. I could not have done any of it alone. I want to achieve inclusion for people with all kinds of disabilities, all over India”.

Right now, one of Rajiv's tasks includes lobbying to fix the loopholes in the Rights of Persons with Disability Bill, which is currently before the Parliamentary Standing Committee. “Like any human being, persons with disability deserve legal capacity and equal recognition before law. Our current laws do not give this birthright to them. These discussions have to be brought before the disabled masses. Only then can a just and meaningful Bill be

worked out,” he says. Besides that, Rajiv has his hands full negotiating with the city Corporation and sensitising the public on a host of needs — accessible and safe pavements, accessibility to public places, legal awareness, education and employment for the disabled, to name a few of his pet causes.

Rajiv himself commutes within the city by auto-rickshaws and does his analysis and documentation work with an Android phone. Laptops are inaccessible to him, because of their design. “That is the point. From transport to technology, accessibility is a challenge for us, which snowballs into bigger challenges. For instance, because the design of buses/trains and bus stops/stations are inaccessible to me, I am forced to travel by auto, which is a drain on my salary. Likewise, if laptops are accessible to me, I wouldn't need somebody to assist me in keying in documents.” However, Rajiv reckons that the biggest barrier to persons with disability is societal attitudes. “It is from this closed, negative and condescending attitude that every other barrier develops. If people are inclusive in their attitude, they will design everything from gadgets and services to societal systems in a way that it includes persons with disability in all walks of life.”

Rajiv is a 2009 IVLP alumnus. He participated in the Regional Program on “Disability Rights and Issues”

HYDERABAD

Renowned TIP Activist Wins the Coveted Nelson Mandela - Graca Machel Innovation Award and Co-Produces Award-Winning Film on Sex Trafficking



Dr. Sunitha Krishnan, the co-founder of Prajwala, was awarded the "2014 Nelson Mandela - Graca Machel Innovation Award". Prajwala ("eternal flame") rescues, rehabilitates, and reintegrates trafficking victims into society. Dr. Krishnan is the first Indian to receive the coveted award, and she accepted the award on November 24, 2014 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Dr. Krishnan participated in the 1998 International Visitor Leadership Program on Women and Child Trafficking. To learn more about her work, click [here](#) and [here](#).



“Naa Bangaru Talli”, an award-winning film on sex trafficking co-produced by Dr. Sunita Krishnan, released in theatres on November 21. The film, which explores the consequences of sex trafficking, has won many awards such as Best Film at the Trinity International Film Festival in Detroit, and four awards at the Indonesian Film Festival. At the 61st National Film Awards, “Naa Bangaru Talli” won three awards including the award for Best Feature Film in Telugu.

KOLKATA

Alumni featured in book on women achievers in the northeast



IVLP alumni Hasina Kharbhih and Teresa Rahman have been featured in Indrani Raimedhi's book, 'My Half of the Sky' as women leaders who have managed to overcome several obstacles to make a lasting impact on northeast society. The book profiles the lives of 12 such women leaders from the northeast, and chronicles their struggles to stand by what they believe and their inspirational journey in reaching the space they are in today. Hasina is a two-time IVLP alumna engaged in Combatting Trafficking in the northeast. She runs Impulse NGO and social enterprise, and developed the Meghalaya Model, a holistic approach to combat inter-state and cross border child and human trafficking issues. This model is being reviewed for national replication and has been universally acknowledged. Teresa Rahman is the editor of Thumbprint magazine, and an active crusader of free, fair and fearless journalism. Teresa has won several national and international awards for conflict reporting from seven war ravaged states of the northeast. Thumbprint magazine organized a conversation with the author and the twelve women featured in the book,

the session moderated by the King of Tripura, Pradyot Manikya. Congratulations Hasina and Teresa on this well-deserved recognition.

MUMBAI

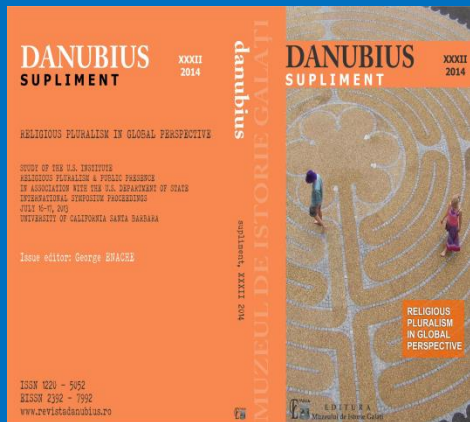
Alumnus bags Millennium Alliance Award



IVLP alumnus Biplab Paul was one of 20 innovators awarded by the Millennium Alliance (MA) partners in November for his Bhungroo Technology in the agriculture/food security category. The innovations were selected through a rigorous selection and evaluation process of over 1400 proposals received as a result of pan-India outreach supported through 40 roadshows in Tier I, II & III cities. The MA is an inclusive and diverse platform to leverage Indian creativity, expertise and resources to identify, support, and scale innovative solutions being developed and tested in India to address development challenges that will benefit low-income populations across India and the world. For more information, please visit www.millenniumalliance.in. The awards ceremony was presided over by Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Government of India.

NEW DELHI

SUSI for Scholars Alumna Publishes Article on Religious Pluralism



Rachana Kaushal is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University. Consequent to her participation in the SUSI for Scholars exchange program in 2013, her article, entitled “Religious Freedom and Human Rights in India: Conflicts and Reconciliation,” was recently published in the *Danubius Supplement*. The supplement is a compilation of the international symposium proceedings on Religious Pluralism and Public Presence organized during her SUSI 2013 program at the University of California Santa Barbara, USA. Rachana has been awarded a grant of Rs. 5 lakhs by the Indian council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for her research project on "Multi-Culturalism and the Claims of Minorities within Minority: A case study of Shias in Lucknow." She hopes to complete her project and produce a book by July 2015.

Alumni Coordinators’ Conference in Chennai

November was an exciting month for the Alumni Coordinators (AC) as the team got together for the first time in Chennai. The team worked on clarifying roles and responsibilities; reviewed processes and strategies for alumni outreach; and planned programs for the year ahead. One of the highlights of the conference was an interaction with members of the Exchange Visitors’ Alumni Association (EVAA), who shared their insights, challenges and successes, along with ideas about programming and creating platforms for alumni to network and collaborate with each other. The conference in Chennai left the AC’s excited about the year ahead and we look forward to working closely with you on a variety of great programs during the new year!



Alumni Coordinators in Chennai (L-R): Brindha Jayakanth (Chennai), Behrooz Avari (Mumbai), Shailey Tucker (Delhi), Angelina Nair (Kolkata), and Neha Kanitkar (Hyderabad)

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